

USA Comments AAHC Report - AUGUST 2005

CHAPTER 2.1.5.

VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA

Article 2.1.5.2.

Susceptible species

For the purposes of this *Aquatic Code*, *susceptible species* for VHS are:

Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*), black cod (*Anaplopoma fimbria*), blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), common dab (*Limanda limanda*), English sole (*Parophrys vetulus*), flounder (*Platichthys flesus*), golden trout (*Salmo aguabonita*), grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*), Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), Japanese flounder (*Paralichthys olivaceus*), lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), lesser argentine (*Argentina sphyraena*), **Muskellunge** (*Esox masquinongy*), Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*), Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*), Pacific hake (*Merluccius productus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea harengus pallasii*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), Pacific sandlance (*Ammodytes hexapterus*), pike (*Esox lucius*), pilchard (*Sardinops sagax*), plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*), poor cod (*Trisopterus minutus*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), rockling (*Rhinonemus cimbrius*), sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), shiner perch (*Cymatogaster aggregata*), smelt (*Thaleichthys pacificus*), sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*), surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus pretiosus*), threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*), sand goby (*Pomatoschistus minutus*), walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*), whitefish (*Coregonus* sp.) and whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*).

Suspect cases of natural infection with VHSV in species other than those listed in this Article should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.

Rationale

A clinically ill Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*) has been diagnosed and confirmed positive with VHS – North American strain – through the United States Geological Survey, Western Fisheries Research Center in December 2005.

Article 2.1.5.3.

Commodities

1. When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities*, *Competent Authorities* should not require any VHS related conditions, regardless of the VHS status of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*:
 - a) ...

- b) The following products destined for human consumption¹ from species in Article 2.1.5.2 which have been prepared in such a way to minimise the risk of diversion for alternative uses:
- i) ~~Chemically~~ Preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated, etc ...);
 - ii) ...
 - iii) ...
 - iv) ...
 - v) ...

Rationale:

Article 2.1.5.3 1)b)i): Smoking and freeze drying are physical (not chemical) processes.

Articles 2.1.5.7 and 2.1.5.10

The sentence in each of these articles which reads:

“The certificate ~~shall~~**should** be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.3.2..”

Comment: Recommend replacing the word “shall” with “should” as it is a more appropriate term when referring to a recommended procedure.